



## **Federal Grant to Benefit Frederick County Farmers**

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A federal grant will increase the expansion of a program that assists livestock farmers and reduces agricultural pollution in the region, including Frederick County, according to a news release.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a \$492,000 grant to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. It will go toward increasing the grass-fed livestock operations in the watershed, the release states.

Partners of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will fund up to \$1 million. Farmers who graze livestock in parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, including Frederick County, will have access to education and technical assistance, such as two-day grazing schools and a regional conference, to create a regional network, according to the release.

“This program is about farmers talking common sense to other farmers, and a whole community reaping benefits,” Michael Heller, manager of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Clagett Farm in Upper Marlboro, said in a statement. “Raising livestock on pasture produces healthier animals and reduces costs. Manure fertilizes the pasture rather than running off into nearby streams. Everyone downstream gets cleaner water for drinking and swimming.”